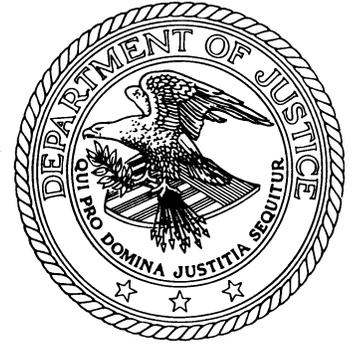


# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

***San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Crowley (619) 557-5733  
Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy F. Salel (619) 557-6074***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **HEAD OF METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING GROUP THAT DISTRIBUTED 220 POUNDS OF METHAMPHETAMINE IN SAN DIEGO PLEADS GUILTY**

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - June 17, 2008

San Diego, CA - United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Andres Chavez-Chavez pled guilty today in federal district court in San Diego to being the leader of a drug trafficking organization that distributed at least 220 pounds of methamphetamine in the San Diego area from spring 2006 through May 17, 2007 – the date when Chavez-Chavez and several other individuals were arrested pursuant to an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”) entitled “Operation My Three Brothers.”

During his plea, Chavez-Chavez, a Mexican national who was in the United States illegally, admitted that his drug trafficking organization had over five members working in the San Diego area to distribute methamphetamine; a number of the individuals involved with the Chavez-Chavez drug trafficking group were also Mexican nationals who had entered the United States illegally. Chavez-Chavez’s guilty plea follows several other guilty pleas arising out of Operation My Three Brothers, including the guilty pleas of his brothers Salvador Chavez-Chavez and David Chavez-Chavez.

According to court documents, Operation My Three Brothers involved months of court-authorized wire intercepts on a number of telephones used by alleged drug traffickers and hundreds of hours of surveillance. On May 17, 2007, federal agents and local law enforcement officers executed 18 search warrants at locations throughout San Diego County, including residences located in Chula Vista, National City, Vista, Pauma Valley, Fallbrook, and Escondido. In total, Operation My Three Brothers and related DEA investigations resulted in the arrest and charging of over 50 people in federal and state court on drug and money-laundering counts (with over 30 people charged in federal court on various methamphetamine trafficking violations), the removal of 18 illegal aliens from the United States, and the seizure of approximately 69 pounds of methamphetamine, 9 kilograms of heroin, two pounds of marijuana, 15 firearms, and \$320,000 in U.S. currency.

United States Attorney Hewitt praised the investigative efforts of the San Diego Field Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration and DEA's federal and state law enforcement partners, including the Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service; the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms; and Explosives; the United States Marshals Service; the Escondido Police Department; the National City Police Department; and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

The defendant is scheduled to appear for sentencing before United States District Judge William Q. Hayes on September 15, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 07cr1408WQH**

Andres Chavez-Chavez

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE**

Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine – Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846  
Maximum penalty: Life imprisonment and \$4,000,000 fine

**INVESTIGATING AGENCIES**

Drug Enforcement Administration -San Diego Field Office  
Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division  
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

United States Marshals Service  
Escondido Police Department  
National City Police Department  
San Diego County Sheriff's Office